

BEATING MALARIA

THE ON-GOING BATTLE
AND THE PROGRESS SO FAR



World Vision
Ireland

NEWS

VISION

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Greetings

Welcome to our Autumn issue of NewsVision.
Here are some of the activities we've been
involved with over the past few months...

Thank you.

As always, our wonderful supporters have helped us achieve some fantastic successes so far in 2006. Each of our Area Development Programmes has grown from strength to strength – the most exciting of which is the Gakungu project in Kenya which is now entering its three year closure period. This truly signifies the self-reliance and confidence that the community there has achieved.

Included with this issue of NewsVision, child sponsors will have received individual updates on relevant programmes that the sponsored children are part of.

We've had our best year to date in terms of new child sponsors coming on board, so a big welcome to everyone who is receiving NewsVision for the first time.

As ever, the communities we support have faced their fair share of challenges - from the drought in the Horn of Africa, to the Indonesian earthquake, to the crisis in the Middle East. Whichever the crisis, we are continually overawed at our field colleagues' courage and commitment when facing these critical situations.

Middle East crisis

Our colleagues at World Vision Lebanon continue to provide us with weekly updates from within the nine area development programmes there. The crisis erupted with no warning so there was no time to plan for what was to come. Over the first four weeks of the conflict, we were able to respond quickly despite the dangerous circumstances, and have, to date, helped over 45,000 people with food, medical supplies, bedding, etc.



45,000 may seem a large number, but when you compare it with the 1 million people who fled their homes, it is literally the tip of the iceberg. The 18th August ceasefire should pave the way for easier and safer access but there is still so much to do.

Over the coming days and weeks, our colleagues will carry out needs assessments to discover how best to help the internally displaced people who have started the journey home. These needs vary from providing housing assistance to electricity generators, and water purification tablets to psycho-social help – especially for the young victims who have had their lives and homes turned upside down so suddenly.

AIDS...25 years on

2006 marks the 25th anniversary of the first diagnosis of AIDS. Today over 42 million people live with AIDS. And with 14,000 people being diagnosed positive per day, this figure is expected to more than double by 2010.

In sub-Saharan Africa, it is estimated that 12.3 million children have lost either one or both of their parents to HIV/AIDS. These children are especially vulnerable, with few resources or laws in place to protect their interests; they are often left to fend for themselves.

World Vision's HIV/AIDS HOPE initiative is a programme that reaches out to children who are struggling to survive in appalling situations. Some have no parents. Some have just escaped from a brothel or factory. Many are homeless and trying to survive on the streets.



World Vision Ireland is currently working on an initiative in the Dodoma region of Tanzania where there are already

4,800 orphans and vulnerable children. The focus of our project is to give the younger children the means to stay in school and the older ones vocational training so that they can earn an income to support themselves and their younger siblings. This HOPE project is funded through the generosity of Irish donors.

Malaria Control Programme

Malaria continues to be single biggest killer in sub-Saharan Africa, killing almost one million people, mostly children, every year. In this issue, our Programmes Officer, Eileen Morrow, reports on some impressive strides that World Vision Ireland, together with Irish government funding, has made towards combating this disease in our project areas in Tanzania.

We will continue to work for those who are most vulnerable – whether they are affected by man-made or natural disasters.

Thank you for making our efforts possible.



Helen Keogh
Chief Executive

Malaria

control project in Kwamtoro, Sanzawa and Mundemu ADPs

Nearly **ONE MILLION** people, mostly young **children, die** in Africa each year as a result of **malaria**. It is Africa's leading cause of under-five mortality and kills an African child **every** 30 seconds, **every** day.



But we are making progress. World Vision Ireland, funded by Irish Aid - the Irish Government's programme of assistance to developing countries, has developed a Malaria Control Programme in the Kwamtoro, Sanzawa and Mundemu Area Development Programmes in Tanzania. Here **Eileen Morrow** reports on their progress so far.

What we've ACHIEVED

This 3-year programme, now in its second year, has already made great advances

INSECTICIDE TREATED NETS (ITNs)

- Percentage of families using at least one ITN increased from 50% to 90%.
- Percentage of children under five sleeping under ITNs increased from 16% to 35%.
- Percentage of pregnant women using ITNs increased from 13% to 95%.

DESTRUCTION OF MOSQUITO BREEDING SITES

- Hygiene practices, including the destruction of mosquito breeding sites, have increased from 20% to 60% at schools that have school health clubs.

HELP ENSURE EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

- Percentage of households with knowledge of malaria increased from 13% to 50%.
- The number of people testing for malaria and pregnant women receiving malaria prevention treatment has doubled.

ENSURE ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES

- Percentage of villages accessing quality malaria diagnosis and treatment increased from 45% to 71%.
- Percentage of health units with laboratory services and quality malaria treatment increased from 20% to 85% and 28% to 91% respectively.

WHAT IS MALARIA?

Malaria is caused by protozoan parasites that are carried by mosquitoes. The parasites are transmitted from one person to another by a bite from the female mosquito. The parasites travel through the blood to the liver, where they progressively break down the red blood cells.

After a brief incubation period, a person infected with the disease will experience flu-like symptoms such as shaking, chills, nausea and headache. Pregnant women and young children are particularly vulnerable to the disease. In cerebral malaria, the infected red cells obstruct the blood vessels in the brain. Other vital organs can also be damaged, often leading to the death of the patient. The situation has become even more complex over the last few years with the increase in resistance to the drugs normally used to combat the parasite that causes the disease.



Community Stories

Access to ITNs

Mr. & Mrs. Kulumban have been living in Ovada village in Kwantoro since 1975. They have a 5 year old son, Joseph who suffered from malaria several times each year. This led to huge medical expenses for a family whose annual income is just €40. Since the arrival of the Malaria Control Project, this family has, for the first time, been able to afford subsidised insecticide treated nets (ITNs) for just 14cent to protect Joseph while he sleeps. These simple devices can literally mean the difference between life and death for this family and Joseph's health has greatly improved.

Access to early diagnosis and treatment of malaria

Families in Tanzania will often visit a witch doctor when a member becomes sick. This is highly dangerous as they will not receive proper diagnosis or treatment from a witch doctor and malaria can kill a child in 24 hours if left unchecked. Thanks to a visit from the Malaria Monitoring Programme's village health worker, eight year old Martin Akhamis's parents were convinced to send their sick son to Lalta dispensary where a subsidised blood test for just Tshs. 300 (17 cent) diagnosed and provided him with treatment. Before the arrival of subsidised tests, this family simply would not have been able to afford such a procedure and their son would have been left in a critical situation.

Access to health services

Getting access to reliable health services is a major problem to people of Kwantoro, Sanzawa and Mundemu ADPs. One villager explained that immunisation services to under five year olds are conducted under a tree in his area. And when a pregnant woman is ready for delivery, the 30km distance to the health services means that if she suffers complications she can die on the side of the road.

However, the inception of the Malaria Control Programme has dramatically increased access to health services in many remote villages through the construction of 14 health posts and 3 dispensaries. This means that thousands of villagers now have access to locally-based health care and immediate quality treatment. This will save countless lives in the future.

This project is a true example of how, with some guidance, the communities of Kwantoro, Sanzawa and Mundemu have become masters of their own destinies by making phenomenal life-saving changes.



This is the family of Mr. and Mrs. Kulumban of Ovada village. To the left is Daniel Mbogo (Kwantoro ADP Nurse).



As part of the Malaria Control Programme, a mother-to-be such as Anjelika Salima can buy a subsidised treated net for just 14 cent.



This is the planning and finance committee of Kwantoro ADP held in October 2005 to discuss implementation progress of the Malaria Control Project.



This is the site at Ovada village where the construction of the new dispensary has already started. Construction is also planned in Motto village (Sanzawa ADP) and Asanje (Mundemu ADP).

FUNDRAISING STORIES

Over the last few months we have had a number of sponsors and fundraisers contact us about the wild and wacky things they are doing to raise funds for World Vision Ireland. Here are a few that have shared their stories and pictures.

Thanks to everyone...you really are making a huge difference.

Cobh National School

Cobh Mixed National School, Bellevue, raised a phenomenal €4,500 to build a classroom in Ndala in Tanzania. What's most amazing is that the school has just 28 pupils! They managed to do it by holding cake sales, raffles, bring & buy sales, no uniform days, sponsored car wash you name it! And to top it all off, one kind mum, Anne Mallon, even ran the Women's Mini Marathon for us. Well done all, what an effort!

Litter pick

Cameron Duggan, aged 8, donned her rubber gloves and wellies and went on a sponsored litter pick to raise €200 for her family's sponsored child and community in Tanzania. Now thanks to Cameron, not only will Mariamu's family benefit from her efforts but we're sure the neighbours in Kilkenny are delighted with their spotless community too!

Fabulous 40

Bernie O'Donoghue had a gathering of friends and family in Doheny and Nesbitts in Baggot Street, Dublin recently to celebrate her 40th birthday. A World Vision collection area was set up which netted a hugely positive response to the tune of €661, all of which went towards gifts from our Alternative Gift Catalogue.



Cobh Mixed National School



Cameron Duggan



Bernie's 40th Collection



Alison Roe



Alison Roe



Samuel Slater

Parachute Jump

Alison Roe from Kilkenny recently took her life into her own hands and hurled herself out of a plane at several thousand feet and raised €593. Brave girl Alison!

Samuel's birthday

Samuel Slater, who celebrated his birthday in March, very kindly collected his birthday money and bought a generous €391 worth of gifts from our Alternative Gift Catalogue. Here he is playing U11 soccer for Clare.

A kindly couple of lovebirds!

Tom and Lavina Gilsenan, who married on 31st March 2006, decided to spend their 'wedding favours' budget on something a little more useful than sugared almonds...they donated a whopping €1,155 to buy gifts from our Alternative Gift Catalogue instead.

Not another toaster.... please!

www.weddingsonline.ie are currently running a piece on using our gift catalogue as the alternative to a traditional wedding list. We've had lots of interest and now have a number of generous couples raising money for everything from water projects in Southern Sudan to midwifery training in Tanzania.

If you want to find out more just call us at **1850 366 283** or email ireland@wvi.org.



Tom and Lavina

Gakunga ADP Closure

Sponsors of children in the **Kenyan ADP** of **Gakungu** will have read in their project update that this programme is entering its phase-out period. It is an exciting time for everyone involved because it signals the success of the programme and demonstrates the efforts made by the community to become completely **self-reliant**.

From the beginning, World Vision emphasises to all members of the community that ultimately they are the ones who are responsible for transforming their lives and lifting themselves out of poverty. Essentially our job is to give them the training and the confidence to make it happen and then to make ourselves redundant!

When we look back to 1992, when we first arrived in the Maragua District in central Kenya, it was such a different place. There was minimal infrastructure in the area and the community faced serious problems, including a scarcity of safe drinking water; high death rates among children, low literacy and education levels, and chronic food shortages.

Now they have highly efficient Community Based Organisations (CBOs) who have already taken over the running of key projects, including the area's water supply, secondary school loan funds, farmers' associations, women's income generating groups and parent-teacher associations.

The phenomenal success of Gakungu ADP would not have been possible without you. Thank you for helping them achieve their dreams.



Where to next...

The ADP support office is currently developing a phase-out plan that will determine the children who will no longer require sponsoring in Gakungu. As we find out, we will let the relevant sponsors know. Sponsors will get plenty of notice to send back a 'Good luck' card (which we'll send to you) and will also receive a farewell letter from the sponsored child.

We will also invite you to stay with us in Kenya and join us in helping a nearby community in a new area development programme in Mutonguni. The children there urgently need new sponsors to help them achieve all that Gakungu has, please join with us and help us to help them.

If you have any questions feel free to call us 1850 366 283.

GIFT CATALOGUE

Together with this issue of NewsVision you will have received a copy of our new Alternative Gift Catalogue. Each of the gifts has been specifically requested by our Area Development Programmes (ADPs) so you know that they are genuinely needed and will be gratefully received.

Sourced locally

It's important to mention that all of the gifts are sourced locally so that we not only get the best prices but also to ensure that we support local business and trade.

Finally, if your company buys corporate Christmas gifts for customers, why not give a piglet instead of a bottle of wine? If you'd like multiple copies of the catalogue, please contact Judith_Gilsenan@wvi.org.



If you have internet access, it's especially worth your while checking out the catalogue at www.worldvision.ie.

That way, you can choose any of the gifts that are available in the catalogue. There's also a HUGE SELECTION OF CARDS to choose from including the World Vision collection, stylish modern pictures, witty cartoons, wedding invitations and thank you cards. All the cards can be printed with a PERSONALISED MESSAGE ON THE FRONT AND THE INSIDE.



Personalise your card for any occasion.



FAQ

How are gifts chosen for the catalogue?

Each of the communities where we have ADPs give us a list of items that they need and how many of each item.

How much of the cost goes towards the gift?

80% of the price you pay is spent on the gift, the remaining 20% is spent on printing, fulfilment and administration costs.

Can I select an alternative gift for the child I sponsor?

Sorry, but no. This form of giving is designed to benefit families both within and outside our sponsorship programmes. Community leaders who are best qualified to identify the people in greatest need, select those who will receive the gift. (But for more about sending gifts directly to the child you sponsor see the gift notification section in the 'Thank You' pages inside the back cover)

How long will it take to receive a card?

We have a fantastic range of cards if you want to select your own (just visit www.worldvision.ie). If you don't have internet access, we'll select one for you. From the day of order, it will take approximately 3 days for you (or your gift recipient) to receive the card.

HORN OF AFRICA



2006 has been a challenging year for our colleagues and communities in the Horn of Africa. We receive weekly updates from staff in Kenya, Somalia and Tanzania who are dealing with the effects of yet another year of insufficient rains.

It is difficult for us to constantly ask our supporters for donations, on top of what is already so generously given but as ever, you have made a phenomenal contribution of over €60,000 towards the relief efforts. This contribution and contributions from our supporters worldwide mean that World Vision has been able to provide assistance to some 1.7 million people.

Encouraging news....

Some good news we have recently received were the results of a study on Kenya, and the effects of the drought on our area development programmes (ADPs) there. The studies showed that 38 per cent of the total population reported they had lost no cattle and the prevention mechanisms they had been taught by World Vision staff meant that they had not reached desperation point and had to begin selling household possessions in order to survive.

...but continuing effort is needed...

The situation is still far from rectified. Although the April-June rains were reasonably adequate, they were erratic in many arid pastoralist areas. Even in areas with average rainfall, much of the livestock had already been lost and any that have survived, have still not fully recovered. Now we must wait in hope for the critical short rainy season from October to December.

Limited media coverage can often lull us into a false sense of security that these problems are suddenly 'fixed'. This is not the case. The communities within the Horn of Africa will spend many years rebuilding their lives and will continue the fight against poverty and starvation long after the newspapers have stopped reporting. World Vision Ireland, with your help, will be there for the long haul.

If you'd like to contribute to our recovery and prevention projects in the Horn of Africa, please contact us at 1850 366 283 or visit www.worldvision.ie.

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

The World Vision partnership declared its highest level of emergency in response to the crisis in the Middle East – this meant mobilising a Global Rapid Response Team (GRRT) and required the highest level of relief and disaster response across the partnership.



The Abu-Tur family in Rafah receiving a World Vision food package.

World Vision Response to Middle East Crisis

World Vision has been working in the Middle East for 30 years and has nine existing Area Development Programmes in Lebanon, across which there are 12,631 sponsored children and their communities. The crisis erupted with no warning, which meant that there was no time to plan for what was to come.

As soon as they were able to gain access, the initial task of the Global Rapid Response Team (GRRT) was to dispatch emergency medical supplies consisting of medicines as well as technical equipment, high-energy food items, bedding and water purification tablets.

Following the 18th August ceasefire, World Vision Lebanon and the GRRT have begun working through the ADPs, village by village, carrying out needs assessments. With one million internally displaced people returning to their homes, the task ahead is an enormous one.

"Some medical dispensaries had been shelled, crops are burned up and many sheep, goats and other livestock that families relied on for income are now dead. In addition, with so many unexploded bombs scattered around southern Lebanon, the entire region is a very dangerous environment for returning families, especially children," Judy Moore, GRRT Senior Relief Associate explained.

As part of its ongoing relief activities to these returning families, World Vision will provide water tanks, small electric generators, water filtration systems and purification tablets to households as they wait for electricity and water supplies to return.

Whilst we respond to the practical and infrastructural needs of these communities, we do not overlook the emotional repair that also needs to take place, especially for the children. As they return to school in September, World Vision hopes to set up psychosocial programmes to focus on the rehabilitation needs of these innocent victims.

The overall cost to the World Vision partnership to fund this emergency response will reach an estimated USD\$5.2 million. If you can help us, please contact us at **1850 366 283** or visit www.worldvision.ie



THANK YOU & FEEDBACK

Tax Back mailing

We received a phenomenal 54% response to our tax-back mailing earlier this year. This means that €400,000 of your tax money was returned to us from the Revenue Commissioners. The best part is that it doesn't cost you a thing!

Don't forget that there's no cut off date, so if you've forgotten to send back your form, then please do it now. Or if you've lost it, just give us a call on (01) 498 0800 and we'll post a new form out straight away. Thank you so much!

Birthday/Christmas cards

Sponsored children who celebrated birthdays in June, July and August received the first wave of new birthday cards this Summer. These cards are simple and fun and have gone down really well both with sponsors and the end recipients! September to December cards were mailed at the end of July so please send them back as soon as you get a chance.

Christmas cards will be mailed in October – if your sponsored child has a birthday around the same time (especially Mauritanian children whose birthdays are usually registered on 31st December of the year that they're born rather than an individual date), the ADP staff will separate the birthday and Christmas celebrations so that the children get a chance to enjoy two special days.



Gift Notifications

As you will already know, we don't recommend sending anything of value by mail to our ADPs as the parcel can often be stolen or stopped by customs and then result in our field office having to pay custom's duty. That's why we have in place a process called Gift Notification (GN). The GN process works as follows:

1. Sponsor calls us to say they want to give a GN of, say, €100.
2. We notify the field staff who go to the family to establish what they need most – it might be a goat, a hen coop, clothing, mattresses, etc.
3. The gift is purchased locally and given to the family.
4. You will receive a thank you letter and usually a photo of the purchase from the family.

Please be aware that the logistics involved means that the whole process takes between 3 and 6 months.

Help us reduce our costs

We can send most of our correspondence to you via email. It will not only save post and print costs but help protect the environment too. If that would suit you, please drop an email to Judith_Gilsenan@wvi.org.

Recycling Appeal

We have recently set up a Recycling Appeal with www.recyclingappeal.ie (call 1800 933 616). The Recycling Appeal collects mobile phones, PDAs and printer cartridges for reuse and recycling, so all you have to do is tell them that you want to recycle in aid of World Vision Ireland and they'll collect whatever you've got. Please get your bosses and colleagues involved too!

Volunteers

We are always looking for volunteers to help us out in the office in Rathmines, Dublin. We're a small team of just 10 people so you can imagine how busy we are, especially at Christmas! If you'd like to help us, even for a couple of hours a week, please call Rosaleen at (01) 498 0800.

World Vision Ireland

The Mews
Garland House
Rathmines Park
Dublin 6

Chief Executive

Helen Keogh

Managing Editor

Judith Gilsenan

Contributors

Helen Keogh, Eileen Morrow,
Andrea Swinburne-Jones, Kevin Cook.

Pictures

WV general shots,
Eileen Morrow

Supporter Helpline

1850 366 283
+353-1-498 0800

e-mail

Ireland@wvi.org

Website

www.worldvision.ie

World Vision Ireland was founded in 1983 and is part of World Vision International, one of the world's leading international relief and development agencies. World Vision works towards ending poverty, fighting hunger and injustice, and bringing about lasting change for the better in the lives of more than 100 million people in some 100 countries worldwide.

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